



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Rt. Rev. Frank A. Rhea, D.D., S.T.D.
Bishop of Idaho

William James, the philosopher, wrote: "Faith is the sense of the exceedingness of the possible over the actual. "How poignantly this truth comes home to us as we look out upon our world on another Christmas Eve. How foreboding is the actual, war strife, bloodshed, destruction, hate, lust, a whole train of evil passions blasting and destroying the peace of the world.

Christmas is the assurance of the "exceedingness of the possible over the actual, "for here we see the world as it could be under the universal peace, men safely housed in security with their families, even the sheep in the fields in safety, while overhead the angels sing their glad refrain; "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

The whole impact of the Christian Gospel is to teach men of the exceedingness of the possibilities under the reign of God's love over the actual nightmare under the rule of Men's hatred.

May we all open our hearts this year as never before to the inrush of God's love that we may know the true joy of the Christmastide!

God bless you all and those who are dear to you!

GREETINGS TO YOUNG PEOPLE

The Rev. Alden Drew Kelley, D.D., S.T.D.
Executive Secretary-National Council

Greetings to our Brethren in Christ! Young men and women, although you may be separated from us by internment, by being away at school or college, or by service in the armed forces of our country, we are one with you in our common humanity, common citizenship, and by our common faith and life in the Church.

At this Holy Season we wish you joy and peace. Some of you are far from the homes and communities in which you were reared and grew to love, others are away from both home and family, and still others are distant from home, family and country. All this in our mind and in our heart when we say, nevertheless, "The Peace of the Lord by Always with You."

The Christian way is like that. The joy of the first Christmas came to mankind in the midst of a dark and terrible time. The Christmas star blazed all the more brightly because of the blackness of the hour just as the stars which we look at appear most brilliant on moonless nights. So the Light of the East which shone first in a little stable of Bethlehem gleams its brightest when the hearts of men and women are saddened and lonely, when their spirits are oppressed and imprisoned, and when their bodies are broken and suffering. It is just at those times that Christians with strong voice and joyful faith have sung the praises of the little Child called Emmanuel, "God-with-us".

And Peace! We heard the Angelic promise, "Peace on earth to men of good will!" Was that a delusion or a fraud? It was never promised to us that would be safe from the designs of evil men or secure against the warring of the nations. Rather, Christ's is a greater gift - the Peace of God. "Not as the world gives, give I unto you" but "The peace of God which passeth all understanding."

To you then, fellow-servants and friends, wherever you may be, we declare in all love and with prayer our hope that the Joy and Peace of Christmas may be yours.

CHRISTMAS

COLLECT

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-be-gotten son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God world without end. Amen

THE MINIDOKA
CHURCHMAN



• Special •

CHRISTMAS EDITION

TURN THY HEART TO HIM

The Rt. Rev. Wallace E. Conklin, D.D., S.T.D.
Bishop of Chicago

"As in these war darkened days we long so for the coming of peace, we can understand more deeply the longing of devout hearts in the world, of long ago when the Prince of Peace was born. May we therefore turn our longing hearts toward Him as we know His presence in our Christmas Communion, may we also know His Blessed Peace in Our Hearts."

THE BOW OF PROMISE

By Dr. Herbert H. Gowen

"He called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands." Genesis V29

I

So Noah, in his name, this comfort carried
Through his primeval world of force and crime;
And, though, for weary years, the promise tarried
Till earth's fair fields lay levelled in the slime;

Yet still, mid scorn and misbelief and sorrow,
He bore, a banner, presage of that morrow
When the waste world, washed clean of its defilement,
High in the heavens beheld the Bow of Reconciliation.

II

On this glad day of Christ's Nativity,
When we recall how all Creation hung
Upon the brink of Hell's declivity,
And praise Him for the pledge of Angels sung;

Clear-shining through the driving clouds above us,
The message comes to tell how God must love us,
Even while His judgements smite for our betraying
His gracious gifts, in wilful ways, perversely straying.

III

Forgive, O lord, the truths we have forgotten-
War's fearful fruitage, even though war be just;
Good-will gone bankrupt; enmities begotten
Which linger on long after we are dust;

The blood-drenched battle-fields, engaging
Warrior and woman alike; mad conflicts raging
'Gainst all the countrysides once fair and flourishing;
'Gainst all the beauty sense and soul found flourishing.

IV

Nor pardon only; after the Flood's receding
Thy Spirit send, a glad returning Dove,
With us to abide, for ever interceding,
Within a world renewed through mutual love.

Where now our sins have multiplied to sadden,
Display Thy seven-hued Sign mankind to gladden;
Comfort our toil and justify Thy labor,
That none lift hand again 'gainst Thee or 'gainst
his neighbor.

THE ANGELUS

By Mrs. Mildred Whitney Stillman

Hail Mary, full of Grace, from this May hillside,
I hear the distant village church bells ring,
And tremulous, abashed, a blooming pear tree
Stands as a young girl stood, that far off spring.

Sounds hesitant and humble yet undaunted,
In the full splendor of the slanting light.
Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee
Thy peace spreads on the wistful earth this night.

Hail Mary, full of grace, a sudden thunder
Breaks roaring on the bell's persuasive sound,
And nineteen bombers flying in formation
Pass with no shadow on the shivering ground.

One day such planes will drown the pealing church
 bells
If bells still peel, in some quaint Schwarwald town,
And startle women saying their Hail Mary's
While their sons rise to shoot the invaders down.

Their sons, our sons, embattled in the heavens,
Each robbing each of laughter and of breath
Mother of God, pray for us all sinners,
Even while we mock thee, and thine own son's death.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The church of the Holy Apostles gratefully acknowledges the kindness of the many persons who has made possible this special edition of the Minidoka Churchman. As in the messages we hope for peace on earth good will towards men.

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The Rev. Herbert H. Gowen, DD. Prof. at the University of Washington
Dr. Alden Drew Kelley, DD. Committee on Student Relocation of the Episcopal Church, N. Y. City
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 Rev. Joseph M. Kitagawa, Vicar, Church of the Holy Apostles, Hunt, Ida.
 Mrs. Mildred Whitney Stillman, for use of her many poems
 Mr. G. Hollis for the use of his poem
 Mr. T. Tachiyama for his coverpiece.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Beyond the holly and the Christmas tree,
Lo, what a bloody world we offer thee,
Child Jesus, earthward straying little King.
Sky is not safe for any tender thing.
The ranging bomber, the protecting gun
Would surely frighten Mary's gentle son.

Yet never have we needed thee as now
We need thee on this desperate earth tonight,
In every humble heart thy cradle spread,
Where thou canst safely pillow thy bright head,
Though the whole world be wrapped in fiery hell,
Still come, our innocence, Emmanuel.

By Mrs. Mildred Whitney Stillman

SHELTER HIM WITH OUR LOVE

By The Rev. Herbert E. Gowen, D.D.

My dear Fellow Christians of Minidoka:

It is pleasant to feel that in spite of the distance between us, as the light of the sun bridges the gulf between the planets, so the power of the Christmas message may avail to unite those separated by space and unhappy circumstance.

We can but reflect at this season on the extent to which the Babe Christ was Himself homeless and an exile during so much of His early life on earth. He to whom the world themselves were home emptied Himself of glory to find a home on this planet. And in the place of His birth He found no room in the inn. And not long after, He was compelled to leave for Egypt in His mother's arms to escape the pursuing rage of Herod. It was long ere He could find the peaceful abode of a home in Nazareth and even that was but a stage of the long, slow journey towards the cross.

Yet "only where He was homeless are you and I at home". It is Christ Who makes a native land for everyone who finds through Him an approach to God and also a fellowship with believers in every land. He has made for us a place of refuge in "so the secret place of our tabernacle" so may we learn at this Christmas season to make a place for Him in our hearts. If we give Him the shelter of our adoring love His presence will draw with it the fellowship of all that we hold as near and dear. Angels will minister to us as they ministered to the Infant Saviour and we shall find ourselves at home for ever in that

"Older place than Eden,
That taller town than Rome.
The end of the way of the wandering star,
Where all men are at home."

With best Christmas wishes to each and all and prayers for God's blessing on all during the New Year so soon to dawn.

RISE UP, LOOK TO THE FUTURE

In times like these the words of Christ sound like those of an eyewitness of our times. "Upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking for those things that are coming on the earth". That is certainly the way many of us feel in 1943.

The Rt. Rev. Fisher Lewis, S.T.D. but nothing can prevent the Resurrection. The immediate future may bring confusion, suffering, and the loss of many things the world call good. But "what can separate us from the love of Christ?" Nothing, of course, if we want to share in His redemptive work, we will find that noth-

What does the future hold for us? Nothing is the same or ever will be again.

As Christians we cannot stop there. Christ's words do not stop there, but continue. "Look up, and lift up your heads for your redemption draweth nigh." Yes, here comes Christmas, the evidence of what God is like, the proof of His goodwill toward men, Christ our Redeemer. In a world full of bitterness, suspicion and hatred, comes the fact that God's will is peace, and His plan a family to include all men. It is not a dreamer's hope, not an idle fancy which cannot face the brutal facts of earth. It is a fact. God sent His Son, man's offered a more excellent way, and there can be no final failure. Our sins, and all the other evils of our time may postpone God's kingdom, they can extend the crucifixion;

ing else is important. We need not fear. In fact He will use us so that we have not time for distress and perplexity. The work of the Church, "through world evangelism to world fellowship", is the plan and work of God, foretold by the prophets, begun in a manger, sung by the angels carried on by the Church to be finally accomplished in God's own good time.

That is our Christmas prospective for 1943. "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day... a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

* * * *

Cpl. Wilbur B. Huston, 20th - Base Hq. F. A. B. Sq. Mountain Home, Idaho sends greetings to all our friends of Minidoka.

PEACE ON EARTH

Christmas! Peace on Earth! Good will to men! How silently, how silently! Emmanuel God with us! The Babe of Bethlehem! These familiar and accustomed phrases seem strange and unreal this year with the world involved as it is in a war bringing death, and imprisonment, and hunger and cold, and separation of families, and worry and care, to hearts of all men, everywhere.

And yet Christmas may still sing the Christmas hymns, and read the Christmas scriptures, and know the warmth and love of Christmas. For God so Loved the world that He sent His only Begotten Son. The world did not recognize Him. The world scorned and buffeted Him, and rejected Him and murdered Him. But He knew, Jesus knew, that His kingdom was in the world but not of it. He came to seek and to save those who knew Him not. And in that seeking, in that loving service mankind found in the knowledge that some day men would know Him, He found peace that passeth understanding. And peace is joy.

Too many know that peace, that joy, if on Jesus' birthday as we participate in Christ's Mass we do truly find Him and resolve to do our part, each in His own way, and according as we have opportunity, to carry on the work Jesus began and which He has committed to us to complete.

The day when we ourselves know Jesus well enough, when we have given ourselves wholly to Him and to His service, then shall the Kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of our God and of His Christ.

Christmas is a promise, a promise of great Joy. And so it is a Blessed Feast, and we wish each other a Happy Christmas, a wish that all be fulfilled when we bring the promise to effect.

By the Rt. Rev. F. P. Ivins, D.D.
Bishop of Milwaukee

COME TO OUR HEARTS LORD JESUS

Christmas comes again 'but again' comes to a world in conflict. The "distress of nations" seems greater than ever and the end is not yet. Christmas with its peaceful associations, Christmas with the love that surrounded the child in the manger, Christmas with its ringing music of good will seems almost to stand afar off pushed out of human affairs.

far off as we make it and no further. The Lord Jesus can still come to my heart and your heart, to the heart of any nation, and to the heart of the world if we make room for Him. We must not judge by present appearances, but in the light of the past, is the hope of the future, and in the ever present glory of the only begotten Son of God.

There was no room for them in the inn. Mary and Joseph were pushed out and seemed afar off on the Christmas Day, but we know now that the abiding presence was the child in the manger and not the clamor of the world.

When the writer of the Fourth Gospel reflected, he said of the Nativity, "we beheld his glory." It was the glory of God. It was the assurance that never would God desert his children and leave them to their fate however much they seem to deserve it. It was the pledge that we can always behold His glory if we look beyond newspaper headlines, the mistakes of men, and the obvious tumults of the day. Christmas is as

We may go to the Christmas service this year and know that the spirit of Christmas still prevails, that the herald angel's song still persists. We may enjoy our Christmas festivals as much as ever and say "Merry Christmas" to each other and know that it all rings true. We send millions of packages to our beloved soldiers all over the world because at heart we believe that the truth of Christmas is an almighty truth. Christmas is still near. We may still behold His Glory. The Christmas bells will surely ring out the war and ring in the peace.

Cathedral House, Los Angeles,
Rt. Rev. W. Bertrand Stevens

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS TO GOD

By the Very Rev. Calvin Barkow

Today, in a world dark with hatred, bitterness and bloodshed, how ironic sounds the words: "Peace, good will towards men." Yet it was into such a war-torn world that the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace, came

As this Christmas again unfolds the wondrous story of the Christ Child the heart of the world beats stronger with faith and hope.

The joy of Christmas cannot be denied, even though this year for many there will be the undercurrent of anxiety and loneliness. But as we gather for our Christmas Communion, the sense of oneness overcomes the limitations of time and distance--race and color. We are all children of the King of Kings. As Christ is born anew in us, there comes renewed faith, courage, inner peace, and our good will towards others has a deeper meaning.

Let us not complain that we live in chaotic days, but rather let us lift our hearts to God and thank Him that He has matched us with these decisive days and that we may by His divine assistance help build a better world in which He shall reign.

AN YEARLY REMEMBRANCE

By The Rt. Rev. Henry Daniels, D.D.
Bishop of Montana

"O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thine only Son Jesus Christ". We might paraphrase this a little and say "O God who dost cheer us up and make us joyful." Can we be glad, cheerful, joyful in such days as these? I dare to say that I am glad for the following reasons.

1. I always feel better as I hear little children singing the same old carols that were sung when I was a boy. A feeling of gladness comes over me as I watch them taking part in simple pageants or gazing at the Nativity group with its Shepherds, Angels, Mother, and Child. Why? Because I know they will be better men and women, and human life will be sweeter as this old story is woven into their lives.

2. And I am glad also because this yearly remembrance still makes its appeal to grown up men and women. The appeal of Christmas still grips the hearts of those who are older. We are better people because of Bethlehem, and we rejoice that the Christ Child still has a place in the heart of the world.

3. I am glad too that so many have joyfully received this Child as their Redeemer, and that the number is increasing day by day. God is making us glad these days by the actions of great leaders whose purpose is to guide the world according to the principles of Jesus. We should all be glad that war, strife, and bloodshed are not normal to us. Our ideals are those of the Prince of Peace.

Friends, make this Christmas collect your own as you kneel in church on Christmas Eve. Thank God for the gladness that comes through this yearly remembrance.

HOLY MYSTERIES

A loving little Child, with
a manger bed
And haught beside our
faith to guide
Save what an Angel said:

A little bread and wine up
on the altar spread,
and naught beside our
faith to guide
Save what the Master said;

Yet 'neath the bread and
wine as in the little
Child,
Faith ne'er shall fail
true God to hail,
With worship undefiled.

And as in Bethlehem's crib
so at the altar fair.
Hold firm and fast, while
life shall last.
God's real Presence there:

O happy souls that keep
the Eucharistic Creed,
He Who was born on Christ-
mas Morn,
Is your, in yours, indeed.
- G. Hollis -

PRAYER IN THE NIGHT

Mildred Whitney Stillman

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O, Lord,
Lord hear my prayer.
Be with our sons, wherever they may be,
On land, on sea, or in the air.

Not theirs the guilt which sends them forth to kill.
Theirs but the bitter task.
Theirs but the loneliness, the wounds, the strain,
Till they return at last.

Be with them, Lord, on burning desert sand,
Through gray Aleutian snow,
These fighting men, we used to tuck in bed,
A little while ago.

THE FEAST OF THE KING

By the Rt. Rev. William P. Remington
Bishop of Eastern Oregon

Perhaps some of you will remember on our last visit to you that Seaconess Peppers put one of your youngest members in my lap during our community singing. For all I know, he may have been overawed by my dignity, but at any rate, there he rested quietly and seemed to enjoy his experience. Little did either of us at the time realize that we were telling the long story of the Church in symbolic fashion.

Since the day when Jesus took little children into His arms and blessed them and said, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye cannot enter the Kingdom of God," the Church, through its ministry, has brought millions of little ones within the circle of her care, protection and love. They have come from every land, people and age, and no barrier of race or color has prevented them from taking their rightful place as Children of our Father and Members of Christ.

Christmas is the Great Feast of the Child. We worship and adore One who was born both of Mary and of God, a little Babe and yet the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The acceptance of this Good News, proclaimed by the angels and received by Shepherds and Wise Men is the only way that our war-torn world can win again that just and righteous peace for which all good people pray and yearn. To the Christian Japanese and especially to Niseis belongs the great privilege of hearing witness to their faith in God as the Father of all mankind and to the Christ as Redeemer and Saviour. The Church to which you belong has not cast you off though we are at war with the nation from which you have sprung. America, the country of your birth or of your allegiance, has guaranteed to you a protective security so that you might be safe in her arms, free to practice the religion of your choice, and fed and sheltered

as no other internees have been provided for in any other lands. This attitude on the part of our government is the result of Christian influences overcoming the evil forces of hate and fear. It stands with organization of the International Red Cross as a demonstration of the power of Christmas in a civilization not wholly Christian.

That some Japanese, inflamed by fanatical Axis propaganda

have brought shame upon themselves in resisting the government's efforts to protect and shelter them and provide education for their children is just another evidence of what happens when the spirit of Christmas is absent from people's hearts. We recognize as you do that such disloyalty has hurt all loyal Japanese in this country more than anyone else. But never, fear, Christ still reigns in the counsels of the Church, and nothing can prevent us from ministering to you as we have in the past.

When I think that last Christmas Father Dai was holding Christmas pageants and celebrating Holy Eucharist in the Tule Lake Camp, it makes me sad, but let us remember it may be God's purpose that this great sifting time should come. We cannot have a country half free and half slave, and in our world of today, only a police force can rescue any nation from the masters who would enslave them. We are very proud of the loyal Japanese who went to Tule Lake and harvested the crops with which to feed their children, their parents, their brothers and sisters.

No person, no nation is truly free until God's great love in giving us Christmas has expelled all hate and resentment and we give our first allegiance to the Manger Cradled King, The Prince of Peace. May His peace abide in your hearts His love keep you safe from all harm and your worship at Christmas be joined with all the heavenly host.

For well onto two thousand years the Christian Church has reverently remembered the Birthday of its Master and its Lord. The song of the Bethlehem angels has been echoed by myriads of choirs and millions of human voices. The visit of the Wise Men and the Shepherds the Holy Child and the Manger Bed - these have been made to live - again and again - in the pagentry of the Christmas Festival. Art and Literature and Music have poured out their choicest treasures to bring us close to the scene and permit us to share in the Joy of the Nativity.

PEACE

facts been more desperate than, it is today. It cannot be said too often that the vital issue in the present crisis in human affairs is a religious issue. Civilization will survive or perish as a result of man's deliberate choice. The gods men worship - the loyalties they cleave to - the values they cherish and preserve will be the decisive factors in the future of the race. God or Mammon - Christ or Caesar - Super Man or Super State here is the choice. A Christian God of love and peace and human brotherhood - or the pagan gods of lust and greed and

By

The Rev. George A. Wieland, D.D.

Executive Secretary - Division of Domestic Mission

There is nothing lovelier in human literature, in my judgment, than St. Luke's account of the Saviour's Birth. No human imagination could have conceived the exquisite detail of this Immortal Story, and no worthier pen could have been found to give it permanence and perfection. There is a simplicity about it - a serenity - a pathos - a peace - that only a conviction of its historical accuracy can account for - or explain.

And justly so - for there was born into the world on that first Christmas Day - a person and a power - that has done more to lift human thoughts and human life to the heights than anything else that has happened in the world since life appeared.

"Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy" - "Unto you is born this day a Saviour" - "Peace on earth to men of good will" - this was the theme of the Angels' song then - and the hope of the world now. The world needs a Saviour to redeem it from its ignorance - its stupidity - and its sins. For it is more evident today than ever before in human history, that unless the Christian Religion is the answer to man's eternal need, unless it can point the way to "Peace on Earth" among men of "good Will" unless it can lead men's thoughts and men's will towards God's plan of human brotherhood, then the hope of men is eternally vain - and the life of man a ghastly delusion. Never has the need of facing

fear and blood - a world in which the Christian virtues are prized and cherished, or a world in which the pagan vices reign supreme - these are the alternative loyalties between which man must make a definite choice.

"Peace on Earth" - the apex of human aspiration and human hope - can only be possible in a God-centered world and among men of "good will." The eternal price we must pay for peace is to create such a world and such a race. Love of God and love of man are the two commandments of the Christian Gospel. Until these are a fact there can be no peace and no hope of brotherhood. It is our mission as Christians to make these commandments the marching orders of all man.. That's what "Go ye into all the world" means; that's what "Forward in Service" has for its aim and objective.

It means peace in our own lives first - the abolition of hatred - prejudice - jealousy - resentment - greed - selfishness. For we cannot successfully teach others until we have first taught ourselves, nor can we give to others a spirit and a power we do not ourselves possess. When nominal Christians become actual Christians we shall be ready to win the world - and not until then.

The Shepherds in Bethlehem heard the music of the Gospel - the message of the Angels - the "good news" of great joy. But it was when they made their decision - when they said "Let

us go now, even unto Bethlehem" when they made the effort and went to the appointed place- that they found what they sought and knelt down in reverence and adoration and awe. It is in this way - and in no other way - that you and I - and all the world - shall find the -- Prince of Peace - and make Him dominant in human relationships.

IF CHRIST HAD NOT BEEN BORN

By The Rt. Rev. Frank E. Wilson, D.D.,
Bishop of Eau Claire

What if Christ had not been born? What if there were no Christmas? You could still have a gorgeous winter festival. You could have the tree, the lights and colors, the feasts the gifts and the parties. But the one thing you could not have would be the assurance of divine sympathy which comes only with the incarnation of our Lord.

Broadly speaking, there are three ways of knowing God.

You can think of Him as a deity far off in some unknown space, an absentee Creator who has made the world and then left it to its own devices. But what has such a God to do with your daily struggles? Or you can think of Him as a vague, impersonal Spirit, prevailing all things - everywhere but nowhere in particular. That may do for purposes of discussions but it leaves you cold when you need love, sympathy and understanding.

The Christian knows God otherwise. He knows Him in terms of the human life which the ordinary man or woman can understand. Christ was born. God entered human life. He is one of us. You face no trial which God does not know because Christ met life in all of its rough reality. You have no sorrows which God does not share. You have no temptations, difficulties or hardships with which God is not familiar because Christ has been through all of them. You have no joys and happiness into which God may not enter because Christ knew the sweetness of life as well as its bitterness.

Through Christ you have access to a God who understands. The sympathy of God is a reality because Christ was born unto the world. You have reason to be thankful for Christmas and all it means. Christ is born. God comes to meet you. And you have His promise - "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

HE IS WITH US WHEREVER WE ARE

My Dear Friends:

Christmas is a time when one wishes he could divide himself up and be in many places at one and the same time. If I could do that, you may be sure that one of the places where I would be is with you at Hunt. Yet in a very real sense we shall all be together as children of Our Heavenly Father when we kneel at the Table of Our Lord. In Christ we are all one family and because He is with all of us wherever we happen to be, therefore as I have said we shall truly all be together.

Let us think of this on Christmas day when we shall miss our own boys and girls who cannot be with us in our homes, and especially at that joyous festival when we all commemorate the day when "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." Now, by virtue of His risen life He is always with us "even to the end of the world."

May your Christmastide be filled with the joy of this spiritual fellowship which is God's gift to all who accept and receive Him.

Affectionately your Bishop,

S. Arthur Huston

Bishop of Olympia

"This certainty among uncertain--
 things,
 A lowly manger in a little town;
 Above a fear-dark world, the
 brush of wings;
 And higher than earth's blackouts
 shining down,
 One Star to mark the coming of a
 Light
 That all the powers of darkness
 cannot dim.
 No time, no space can part us on
 this night,
 For Christ is born and we shall
 worship Him!

"This certainty and this, -God's
 altar set
 In token of a love so freely shed
 Higher than Bethlehem's holy star
 and yet
 As humble as the Bethlehem manger
 bed!
 Before that Love, O conquering
 Christ, we kneel,
 Receiving from thy hands the gift
 divine,
 Give of Thy life, with all its
 power to heal
 This wounded world of ours and
 make it thine!"

O, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

By The Very Reverend Calvin Barkow

FAITH BEHIND BARBED WIRES

The Rev. Joseph Kitagawa

None of us can see the whole--
 picture of the world. C.S. Lewis
 wrote an enlightening book called
 "The Screwtape Letters." Screw-
 tape is an important official in
 his Satanic Majesty's "Lower -
 archy". He writes from hell to
 his nephew Wormwood, who is a ju-
 nior devil on earth. Screwtape
 says "Hatred is best combined
 with fear, cowardice, along with
 all the vices is purely painful,
 horrible to anticipate, horrible
 to feel, Horrible to remember;
 Hatred has its pleasures. It is
 therefore often the compensation
 which a frightened man reim-
 burse himself for the miseries
 of Fear. The more he fears, the
 more he will hate. And hatred is
 also a great anodyne for shame.
 To make a deep wound in his char-
 ity, you should therefore first
 defeat his courage (XXIX)

The devil certainly has been
 active and messed up the whole
 world. How evil and how danger-
 ous the world is! And we shall
 know yet more about that during
 1944.

Someone whispered to a clergy
 after a wedding, "What do you sup-
 pose that girl sees in that man?"
 And the clergy says, "What does
 God see in this sinning world
 that makes him love it?"

Again we celebrate the Birth-
 day of our Redeemer, Infant Je-

sus came to the world of hatred,
 cowardice and fear, because "God
 so loved the world that He gave
 His only begotten Son..." And a-
 gain He comes to the world to save
 us from the hatred, rescue us from
 the fear, and to give us courage.

Do you think we, shut-ins are
 bound to have the sense of self-
 pity? Do you think we have to
 lose our hope in the future and
 faith in God? Yes, we are bewil-
 dered sometimes. Often we are scar-
 ed of many things. But when we
 think of the poor baby in Bethle-
 hem, who is the Newborn King, we a-
 gree with Longfellow in saying:

I heard the bell on Christmas Day
 Their old, familiar carols play
 And wild and sweet, the words re-
 peat
 Of peace on earth, good will to
 men.

And in despair I bowed my head
 "There is no peace on earth," I
 said, "For hate us strong and
 mocks the song of peace on earth,
 good will to men."

Then pealed the bell more loud
 and deep,
 God is not dead, nor doth he
 sleep.
 The wrong shall fail, the right
 prevail,
 With peace on earth, good will to
 men."